Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01099 202046Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 024266
R 202030Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4600

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1099

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD

FROM AMBASSADOR LANDAU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PA
SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTION

REF: (A) STATE 062416 (B) ASUNCION 0621

1. IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF OASGA CHAIRMANSHIP WITH SAPENA THIS MORNING BECAUSE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED TO ME GREAT INTEREST IN THAT POSITION. I REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION FULLY IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF ASUNCION 0621 WHICH YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ.

2. TO SAY THAT SAPENA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OASFA CHAIRMANSHIP IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. HE WANTS IT DESPERATELY AS AN ELEGANT WAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SYG RACE. HIS DILEMMA WHICH I BELIEVE CAN BE SOLVED IS THAT ALTHOUGH HE NOW WANTS ONLY THE CHAIRMANSHIP, HE CAN'T VERY WILL QUIT THE SYG RACE. IN A PURELY PERSONAL CONVERSATION, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT HE IS AFRAID THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER WON'T LET HIM QUIT THE SYG RACE. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING APPROACHING A CONCENSUS OFFERING HIM THE CHAIR-MANSHIP, HE CAN EXPLAIN TO STROESSNER THAT PARAGUAY'S HONOR HAS NOT BEEN IMPUGNED. SECRETLY
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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 01099 202046Z

HE NO LONGER ASPIRES TO THE SYG JOB WHICH (A) HE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

KNOWS HE CAN'T WIN AND (B) HAS ABSOLUTELY NO
STOMACH TO FILL FOR REASONS OF HIS WIFE'S ILLNESS
AND HIS PERSONAL STRONG ANTI-CUBAN STANCE.

3. THE ART IS TO ADVISE A MECHANISM SOON WHEREBY THE
CHAIRMANSHIP COULD BE OFFERED TO SAPENA TO PERMIT
HIM TO BOW OUT OF THE SYG RACE. HE REPEATED OVER
AND OVER THAT IT WAS UNREASONABLE FOR A MAN TO
ASPIRE TO TWO SUCH IMPORTANT POSITIONS AND THAT
HE WILL NOT ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AS A CANDIDATE FOR
BOTH POSITIONS. RIGHT NOW WAS NOT THE PROPER TIME
FOR HIM TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SYG RACE BECAUSE THERE
WERE STILL TOO MANY IMPONDERABLES AND NEW CANDIDATES
WERE SPRINGING UP ALL OVER THE LOT, BUT BY THE END
OF THE APRIL OR EARLY IN MAY HE WOULD LIKE TO
WITHDRAW.

4. COMMENT: IT IS QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT THE SOONER
THE CHAIRMANSHIP IS OFFERED TO HIM THE SOONER HE WILL
QUIT THE SYG RACE AND, MOREOVER, I THINK HE WILL ACCEPT
COACHING FROM US ON THE PROPER TIMING FOR WITHDRAWAL.
END COMMENT.
LANDAU

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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